TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

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EDITORIAL OPINION

DESPITE BUNGLING, VACCINE HOPE

(Charlotte, N. C., Observer)

It's been unfortunate.

The fumbling, we mean, on the question of Salk vaccine. Understandable, but unfortunate.

We are convinced, on the basis of tests conducted last summer, that the polio preventive is effective, safe and the opening door toward eventual immunity.

Call it wishful thinking—we are still convinced.

But convictions of laymen don't count in a climate of top-level indecision. And that sort of indecision is all we can read into recent, uncertain voices of men who ought to know most about the product and program.

The confusion was, perhaps, inescapable. A new discovery, long-awaited; a highly dramatic announcement; an impulsive effort to by-pass time-wasting caution — all have contributed to the recent stop-and-go of the vaccine program.

It is apparent that the administrators moved too fast though moving in the public interest and from worthy motives. It is deductible that most of us expected too much, in view of the season, because of the short supply, despite the hurried conversion to new production techniques.

Looking backward, you could say it might have been better to have waited until backlog quantities of a safe, tested serum were available for nationwide distribution under tight Federal controls. Looking forward, you wonder how many hundreds of crippled children would have lived to question such caution.

The results thus far have been disconcerting, but faith must endure unpredictable trials. Scientists are seldom master strategists. And there's always the wishful thought.

THE ORATORICAL CLIMAX

(The New York Times)

This is the great week for the British general elections and the big guns will be going full blast, starting with the resounding Sir Winston Churchill at Woodford tomorrow. A week from Thursday it will be all over, and Britain will have 630 new members of Parliament, or at least members with a new mandate for five years.

What Britons are about to elect is a House of Commons. This is quantitatively more important even—if one could conceive it—than an election of all members of the United States House of Representatives and the Senate in a single poll. The British House of Commons appoints the Government from among its members and removes it at will. It thus has executive as well as legislative powers. Its other powers are far greater than those of either of our chambers, because the British House of Lords has few prerogatives left. So what we are going to see on May 26 is the basic expression of the right of all Britons to choose who is going to represent them and rule them for a period that cannot normally exceed five years. This is how Britons exercise the political liberty that they evolved over centures of experiment and struggle.

As with us (and historically speaking, we have England to thank for the system) the choise is essentially between two major parties, with platforms and policies that differ only in external details and never in essentials. Americans can have their personal preferences between Conservatives and Laborites but it will make little practical difference to our affairs which side wins.

The show is on. We have the luxury of sitting in grandstand seats and watching the doughty champions fight it out— Sin Winston Churchill versus Clement Attlee, Sir Anthony Eden versus Aneurin Bevan, R. A. Butler versus Hugh Gaitskell, Harold MacMillan- versus Herbert Morrison.

It will be exciting and enjoyable. Then next year our British friends can sit back and watch an equally stirring electoral fight here. At least we can envy the British for the shortness of their campaigns — three weeks and it is all over, usually for three or four years and possibly for five. The best we can hope for is a two-year respite, and we spend three or four months on the preliminaries each time.

CHANGING ORDER

(Winchester Star)

Along with the old gray mare, the big red barn isn't what it used to be. Modern farming methods have cut that traditionally massive structure down to size. And changing tastes are largely responsible for subduing that once wild exterior.

Mechanization has had a big hand in the transformation. The barn which once doubled in brass as a shelter for stock, work horses, and general conveyeness is no longer home for the vehicular side of farm life. Feffecting the awe in which mechanized equipment is held in this country, tractors, trucks and automobiles all have abodes of their own. Baled hay and scientific feeds have accelerated the passing of the spacious haymow.

Nor is red now the sole barn color, as it was in an earlier day. Once a brand of utility and thrift, the roseate hue is being replaced by green, whites and grays as farmers increasingly harmonize colors of house and barn.

If the big red barn is to endure it will be mainly in story, song and on the canvases of landscape artists. Overstuffed barns are succumbing to the craze for streamlining.

A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

(Hartford Courant)

Some years ago Johnny Mercer, Hollywood song writer, wrote a hit tune entitled "Sentimental Journey." It would have provided perfect mood music for the trip Mercer made this week to his old home in Savannah, Georgia. He deposited a check for $300,000, in a Savannah bank to pay off 500 persons who invested in a real estate and insurance firm owned by his late father. The company failed 28 years ago. Before his death, the elder Mercer cherished the hope of some day paying off the holders of certificates of deposit with the defunct company. The hope was shared by his son.

Johnny Mercer has been one of the country's most successful song writers. But amassing a fortune of $300,000 to pay off a 28-year-old debt takes considerable doing, even for a man in the higher income brackets. A bankruptcy petition would have been an easy way out for the Mercers, father and son. Many businessmen have done this. The investors would haae been the losers. But the Mercers felt a moral ooligation that is all too-often lacking in business transactions. Now the investors, who had faith in Mercer's firm, will have that faith justified. And in a world where many persons do not have a responsibility for their own debts, say nothing of the debts of their parents, Johnny Mercer stands out as a man apart.

THE AMATEUR GARDNER

(The Charlotte Observer)

This is the time of year that gardeners begin to argue about tomatoes. On everything else, from onions to orchids, they can find some area of agreement, but the tomato is the apple of discord that sets the whole gardening fraternity by the ears.

The number of best ways or only ways to plant, raise, cultivate, spray, and stake tomatoes is equal precisely to the number of gardeners taking part in any bull session.

Some will say that the holes must be 18 inches deep and filled half full of compost and the rest with sifted soil before tomatoes can be properly planted.

Another will solemnly aver that the holes must be wider and deeper and filled half full of cornocbs.

Still another maintains that there should be no holes at all. The whole bed should be trenched with a good mixture of both compost and sand.

Once the tomatoes start growing, one school says to mulch them with straw, another that such mulching merely provides a happy home for insect pests.

But Grandpa never worried about any of this. He plowed a furrow, threw the plants in, filled in around them, and let nature take its course. He didn't drive a stake or cut off a sucker, but let the vines run prone all over the field. He never thought of pinching spring or setting blooms.

And he had the best doggone tomatoes you ever ate.

Do It Yourself—We've Resigned

(The Charlotte Observer)

Despite the fact that we can do practically nothing ourselves, we have welcomed the advent of a do-it-yourself philosophy aimed at American men. It was, in a sense, high time. It seemed, moreover, commercially well-intended.

We are no longer deceived.

For, as converts to do-it-yourself, we have tried to replace a handle on the door of an electric range. Better had we stood, disbelieving, on some alien threshold. The job has complications. The screws that connect the handle do not extend all the way through the door of the stove. We don't know why. A trade secret, maybe.

There is doubtless a way to screw the screws in the handle through the back cover of the door, or screw the screws of the back cover into the frame of the gadget that includes holes for the screws in the handle. Doubtless. We never found it.

The upshot involved a bushel of insulation that wouldn't fit back in the place it came from, a doorless handle, a hanless door, a vexed wife, and an upset uleer.

Do it yourself? We're done done.

PANIC MORE DANGEROUS THAN EFFECT OF BOMBS

(Eastern Shore News)

If those big bombs ever start falling, the enemy would put high reliance in a secret ally within the United States—panic. A new movie introduced by President Eisenhower makes and dramitizes this point. The film, to be released soon for nationwide television and other public showing, also offers a cure for panic—"Good leadership, sound planning and prompt information."

Titled "To Live Tomorrow," the film had its first showing last week. It was produced by the Institute of Life Insurance, made up of leading insurance companies and the United States Civil Defense Administration.

In the filmed introduction Eisenhower says Civil Defense must do its job "without terrifying people," then goes on to say: "I have one great belief—Nobody in War or anywhere else ever made a good decision if he was frightened to death.

"You have to look facts in the face, but you have to have the stamina to do it without just going hysterical."

Another way of looking at the problem — the enemy's way — is shown, too. The film demonstrates how false rumors could be spread—leaflets to advance civil strife, misinformation about American ability to hit back at an attacker, intruder radio broadcasts.

Out of the dark screen comes a sinister figure with a menacing accent, voicing the enemy's psychological warfare plan: "There will be no great reason for the existance of armies. We shall have undermined our enemies sufficiently before hostilities begin so that military organization they possess will be incapable of being used in the hour of need."

But the film stresses, through the use of everyday episodes, that Americans will act calmly and intelligently—if they prepare to face them.

The film's narrator says calm nerves will be needed in plenty should the bombs start dropping.

"We can't depend on leaders springing up unexpectly. Civil Defense can provide, but leadership, mental conditioning, pre-attack and post-attack training of the American citizen—is his willingness to respond to a peril facing himself, his family and his country."

QUESTIONS BEING ASKED ON NEW ZEALAND WHITE CLOVER

Lots of questions are being asked these days about the place of New Zealand white clover in the Virginia farage program.

Agronomists at VPI and the Middleburg Branch of the Agricultural Experiment Station indicated the New Zealand strain grows vigorously in early spring under moist conditions. But when summer comes with high temperatures and somewhat lower moisture conditions, New Zealand does not do as well as ladino.

In 1950 at Middleburg ladino clover yielded 1,820 pounds of dry weight, compared to 761 pounds for New Zealand. In 1951, ladino yielded 1,435 pounds; New Zealand 1,435 pounds. All plots were cut twice because of the drouth.

The agronomists say most of the articles concerning New Zealand white clover contain information from the standpoint of the United States where the climate is more favorable to its growth.

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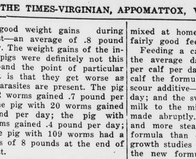

FARM AND HOME NEWS

Placement of Fertilizer Important in Flue-Cured

"The way you put fertilizer in the ground often as important as the actual rate of fertilizer you use on flue-cured tobacco.

"This is especially true if a dry season follows immediately after planting. Many growers make the mistake of laying off a shallow furrow in putting in fertilizer, and then cover up a low list. Under such conditions, the roots of the newly planted plants are generally placed directly above the fertilizer. If dry weather follows fertilizer often placed in this manner causes many plants to die. The result is an irregular crop that is hard to cultivate and more trouble to harvest and cure. The poor in quality and reduced in yield.

"There are two recommended methods for placing fertilizer for flue-cured tobacco—hand placement and machine placement. In hand placement, the fertilizer in the soil in two rows 6 inches apart, and deep enough that it will be one or two inches below the roots of the newly set plants. With the plants set by hand, there will be a minimum number of fertilizer injury.

"In machine placement, you can do a good job with a horse-drawn distributor and open a deep furrow with an 8 to 10-inch shovel plow. Put in the fertilizer, and then throw up a high list. Make the list high enough so that when the soil settles and the plants are set, the roots will be slightly above the fertilizer.

County Agent Jim Smith says to remember that fertilizer injury to the roots of tobacco plants often creates conditions favorable for the development of disease organisms.

New Weed Killer Now On the Market

A new "weed killer that can be used to advantage has recently appeared on the market under the registered trade name of Alanap-1.

The chemical is especially effective in controlling crabgrass, pigweed, purslane, lambsquarter, quick weed, chickweed, and ragweed, says County Agent Jim Smith.

As a pre-emergence treatment, the chemical has given good weed control, on cotton, soybeans, melons, pumpkins, beans, peanuts, and several other crops.

Plans are being made to have several large plots, of an acre or more of soybeans and peanuts treated with Alanap in several counties this season.

Hog Parasites Cost Money

Damage is hard to measure and to correlate with parasite numbers except when a parasite outbreak lays out dead pigs for the farmer to count. But it's been scientifically established that parasites mean money out-of-pocket, states Jim Smith, County Agent.

For instance, Smith reports, that in a U. S. Department of Agriculture test, eight littermate, worm-free weanlings were kept in separate pens. Four were fed infective parasite eggs; four were kept as untreated controls. The pigs were observed for four months and then were weighed, slaughtered, and examined for parasites. At the end of the test the four uninfected pigs, as expected, had no worms. The four infected pigs harbored, respectively, 12, 20, 39 and 109 worms.

The uninfected pigs made relatively good weight gains during the test—an average of .8 pound per day. The weight gains of the infected pigs were definitely not this good,—and the point of particular interest is that they get worse as more parasites are present. The pig with 12 worms gained .7 pound per day; the pig with 20 worms gained .5 pound per day; the pig with 39 worms gained .4 pound per day; and the pig with 109 worms had a net loss of 8 pounds at the end of the test.

God management and sanitation play an important role in parasite prevention, Smith says. If you suspect you have a parasite problem in your swine herd, consult a veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment.

Storing Farm Grains

Insect and rodent control is a major problem with many grain producers.

This problem along with that of drying can be eliminated if preparations are made prior to harvest time.

Increased profits are possible when grain is stored for 6 - 8 months rather than selling at harvest, says Jim Smith, County Agent.

In 1954, J. A. Clapp, of Evergreen conditioned his storage bins for wheat at a reasonable cost and figures it paid for itself the first year. Smith farmers may like to visit the Clapp farm and observe the layout as the wheat has been sold and a close inspection can be made.

Interested farmers may contact the County Agent's office for help from agricultural engineers who are available without charge.

Small grain harvest is right around the corner. Therefore, steps should be made to get construction under way if it is a part of the 1955 plan of work.

New Milk Replacer Formulas

Dairymen may be able to get their calves off to a faster, safer start, and save money too, by using a new discovery.

Jim Smith, County Agent, reporting on findings at Teaxs A & M College, said a new additive has been found for milk replacer formulas which provides needed fat and at the same time prevents scours resulting from nutrition causes. The material is a fatty ester-derivative taken from a by-product of vegetable oil refining.

The whole formula is made up of materials available from feed dealers, and is simple enough to be mixed at home. It keeps well in fairly good feed storage areas.

Feeding a calf whole milk costs the average dairyman about 50c per calf per day. Feeding the same calf the formula — with the anti-scour additive—costs about 15c per day; and the switch from colostrum milk to the milk replacer can be made abruptly. Calves gain better and more steadily on the new formula than on whole milk. The growth studies are under way using the new formula.

As the formual is now being used it includes: 55 pounds of dried skim milk; 35 pounds of dried whey; 10 pounds of the anti-scour additive-one pound of anti-biotic source; and 100 grams (about 1/4 pound) of stabilized vitamin A source per 100 pounds of milk.

NEWS FOR VETERANS

Veterans treated for mental and nervous illnesses have made an outstanding record of readjustment to gainful life through vocational training, a Veterans Administration study revealed.

The study disclosed that 93 out of every 100 of these rehabilitated veterans hold jobs, and nearly all of them like the kind of work they are doing.

Of the employed veterans, 84 out of 100 are using skills they learned during training.

The veterans, at the time of the survey, were earning an average of $70 a week — $15 above the weekly income of non-veterans in the same age group.

The VA study showed that of the 600,000 disabled World War II veterans who received vocational rehabilitation training over the past 12 years, approximately 150,000 had mental or nervous disorders.

This constituted the second largest group of disabled trainees, surpassed in number only by those with orthopedic disabilities such as arm or leg amputations.

VA said the achievements of veterans with mental and neurological disorders are all the more remarkable, in light of the fact that they have, on the average, higher disability ratings than other handicapped veterans who have trained. According to VA records, 65 percent of the veterans treated for mental illnesses had disability ratings of 20 percent or more. In other illness categories only 50 percent were rated 20 percent or higher.

43 CARS SEEN PER HIGHWAY MILE; 1985

The number of motor vehicles registered in Virginia by 1985 will be enough to put 43 vehicles in each mile of the present road system, 123 feet apart, the State Highway Department predicted this week.

Total motor vehicle registration will probably reach about 2,100,000 by 1985, the department said. Registrations this year will total 1,240,000, it added.

Although the figures are just estimates, the department said, it has never made a prediction of future traffic that was too high, and several have been considerably short.

Department engineers pointed out that the only way to avoid congestion on the highways is to provide more and better roads, and the money to pay for them.

Traffic predictions are tied closely to population trends. Virginia's population by 1985, the department predicted, will be more than 4,750,000, compared with about 3,580,000 now.

Population-wise, there will not be many more cars per capita in 1985 than there are now. At present there is one car for each 2.88 persons in Virginia. The ratio in 1985 will probably be down to about 2.25.

A drop is also expected in the average yearly mileage per car. Whereas the figure has been 10,000 miles in recent years, department engineers believe it has dropped to about 9,000 miles a year per car at the present time and will continue to drop slightly in the future.

The reason for this, they said, is the increasing number of two-car families.

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